

T-19

## Academy of the Arts (Old Primary School)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 04-05-2004***

# Easement

Academy of the Arts  
221 Harrison Street (now 106 South Street)  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-19  
Mid Nineteenth Century

The Art Academy complex is composed of two distinct buildings: a simple two-and-a-half story west portion with jerkin ends and a towered east building, both of frame. Protruding from the front of a rectangular front gable structure, the square tower supports an open belfry resting on a hexagonal roof. The tower has double, Greek revival entrance doors and a row of blind windows above the roof. Its quill weather vane is a reminder that this was once a primary school.

*Eusement*  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T 19

*210019 4502*  
Town of Easton

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Primary School

AND/OR COMMON

Academy of the Arts

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

221 Harrison Street *(Now 106 South Street)*

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Curator, Robert Seyffert

Telephone #: 301-822-0455

STREET & NUMBER

221 Harrison Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Town of Easton Survey by Paul Brinkman

DATE

August 29, 1967

\_\_\_ FEDERAL ☒ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

7-19

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two part structure stands on the southeast corner of Harrison and South, facing north on South Street. The structure is frame; its two portions are joined by a two-story hyphen, covered with an A-roof.

The eastern portion of the building is two stories high; its shallow gable end faces the street and has a protruding bell tower. A main entrance, now unused, once led into an anteroom in the tower. Its six-panel double doors remain, framed by pilasters which taper toward the top and carry an entablature.

The tower is quite tall with the open hexagonal belfry far above the roof ridge. The belfry is covered by an eight-sided conical roof topped with a quill weather vane. It rests on the hexagonal roof of the square tower. The cornice of the tower is supported by many closely spaced brackets. Beneath the brackets are blind "windows"; three on each facade; they have an infill of four wooden "lights" and apparently never contained glass. The tower is set into a shallow gable-roofed portico at the front of the building. Two windows with four over four sashes light the second floor of the tower. Additional windows are used in the portico, one being placed on either side of the tower on both floors; these also have four over four sashes. Originally windows on the side of the structure were regularly spaced in each of the four bays; when the structure was converted into a studio, additional window openings were inserted. Now the east wall has a continuous band of window with four over four sashes and six over six sashes alternating. Original windows retain their louvered shutters.

Wide aluminum siding covers the original German ship-lap. The original siding emphasized the flatness and delicacy of the exterior detailing.

The western portion of the Academy is two stories plus an attic in height. Its roof has clipped gable ends. There is a jerkin-headed dormer in the center of the front facade. Like the rest of the building, this portion is covered with white aluminum siding and has black roof and shutters.

From the exterior, this wing resembles a form of dwelling house built in Easton around 1880; it has, however, undergone major alterations. On the inside the main stair has evidently been moved from the center of the building to the west side wall. Interior bearing partitions have been removed to create one large chamber on the first floor. To admit the north light desirable in a studio, wide double hung windows have been inserted between the original second floor windows.

The main entrance to the Art Academy is in the two bay connecting hyphen, under a low overhanging roof.

The interior now serves as gallery and studio space for the Easton Academy of the Arts. Most original details have been removed, or covered when the building was paneled on the inside.

The building stands on the corner, enclosed by a picket fence. Its attractive yard is planted in maple trees and boxwood.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## ERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Easton Public Schools

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This interesting structure is significant for its architecture and as the location of the Easton Primary School.

The history of the building is uncertain. Although the east portion would appear to be earlier, the Easton Atlas of 1877 shows the west block and the hyphen. Not until 1885 do both portions appear. Historical records available at this time do not clarify the question. In 1853, according to school records, a frame schoolhouse "forty feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, two stories high, with ceilings ten feet in the clear" was planned to accommodate seventy-five pupils. This could describe either existing wing. The structure cost \$3,625.79 and served both male and female students. In 1865, school records refer to the school as the County School. Later it was called the Male School of Easton and still later the Female School of Easton. Which changes required extending the structure, and whether a wing was constructed or moved in, are questions which require further study of the old public school records. Eventually the institution was called the Easton Primary and Grammar School, a name well-known to town residents many of whom recall attending classes there.

In 1933, the town sold the structure and it was used as a funeral home.

It was purchased by the Academy of the Arts in 1960 for use as a cultural center. Now it provides classrooms, exhibition galleries, a concert room, and studios for painting, ceramics, and sculpture.

The towered east building is one of the best known structures in the town of Easton. With its quill weather vane, it serves as a symbol of the nineteenth century public school.

In 1787, the first lots of the newly laid out town of Easton were put on sale and Tristram Martin paid £9.15.0 for Lot 48, where the Academy of the Arts now stands. After several speculative sales, it came into the possession of the Rev. Joseph Jackson. He paid £ 65.. to William Webster in 1789 and 1800 turned it over to the Trustees of the Academy at Easton. The Trustees included such prominent men in the community as John Edmondson, Nicholas Hammond, Samuel Chamberlaine, Thomas J. Bullit, William Hayward, Ennalls Martin, Stephen T. Johnson, Perry Benson, John Roberts, Owen Kennard, John Coates, and Hugh Sherwood.

Although the building was not completed until 1820, it was the first school chartered in Easton and remained in use until 1933 when John Williams bought it for use as a Funeral Home and and Antique Shop.

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Gilbert, Byron. Star-Democrat, February 23, 1972. "Public Schools in Talbot".  
Mulliken, James. Research Notes on Public Schools in Talbot County.  
Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.  
Atlas of Easton, 1877

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

Cynthia P. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

September 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Easement

~~221 Harrison Street~~ 106 South Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-19  
Old Primary School

The Academy of the Arts was incorporated in 1958 and purchased this building in 1960. The Academy has provided a cultural center that is yearly growing in recognition and usefulness. It is building a permanent gallery, it sponsors shows for local and Maryland artists, and offers courses of instruction in most of the art forms. Through intensive efforts, especially on the volunteer trust, the Academy has made a strong impact on the Community.

# EASEMENT

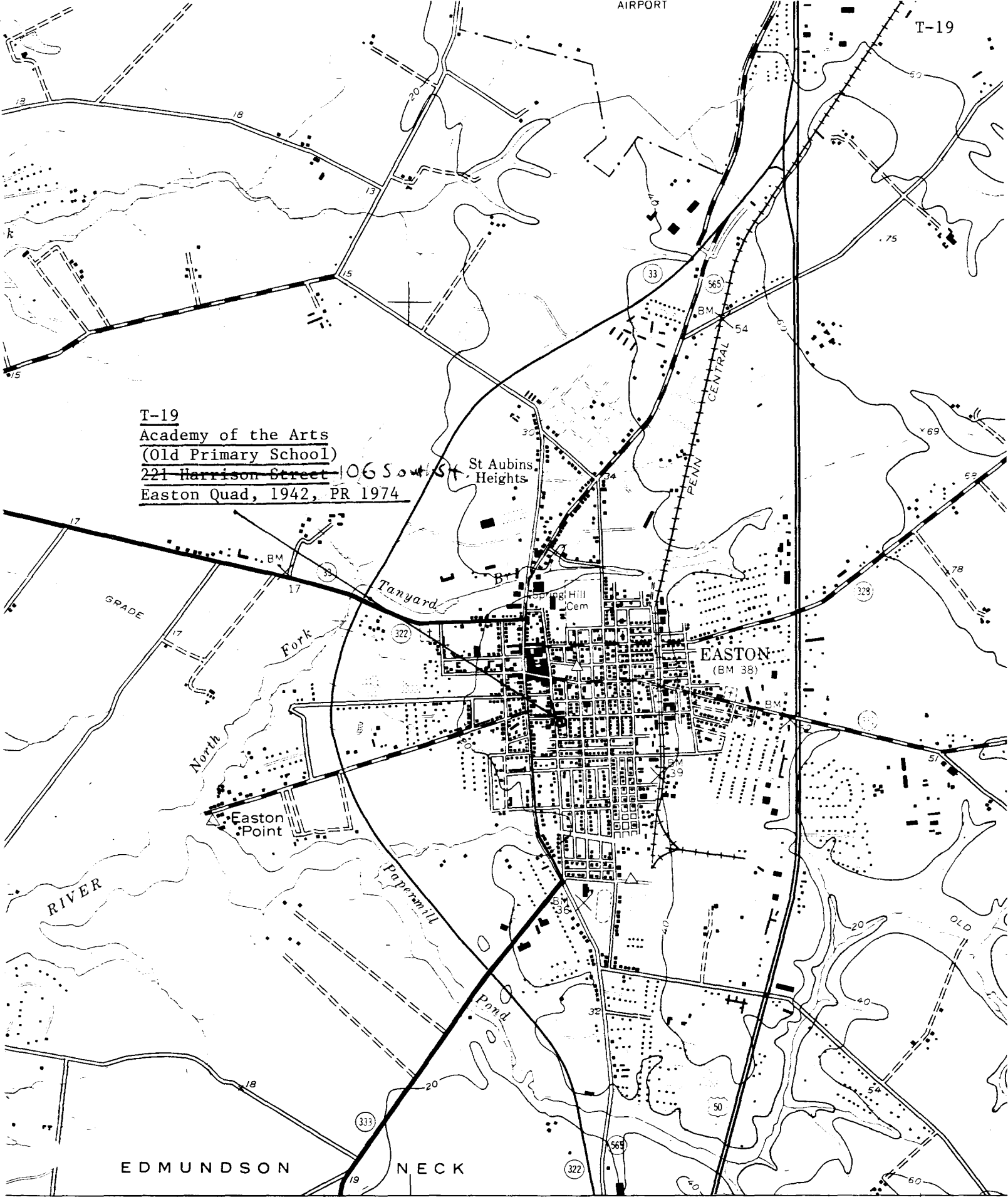
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b>          COUNTY <b>Talbot</b>          TOWN <b>Easton</b> VICINITY          STREET NO. <b>South Street</b>                <b>106</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling and School</b>          PRESENT OWNER <b>Academy of the Arts</b>          PRESENT USE <b>Art School</b>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Clapboard</b>          NO. OF STORIES <b>2½ (a composite struct)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME <b>Academy of Arts</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>T-19</b></span></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <b>c. 1830</b>          STYLE <b>Late Greek Revival &amp; Italian</b>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>yes</b></span></p> <p style="text-indent: 2em;">This structure is composed of two distinct buildings - a five bay wide mid 19th C. house with 6/6 windows. This section is undistinguished except that its A-roof has jerkin ends. To the left of this is a 3 bay wide, 4 bay deep 2 1/2 storey old Academy building with its gable end on the front. The windows are 4/4 Victorian sashes. A flat roofed tower occupies the front central bay. It has a heavy cornice w/many brackets and was definitely constructed by someone familiar with Italian villa style towers. There is a small peaked open cupola with a bell on top of this. The front door is a massive double Greek revival one. Each door has 5 panels which taper toward the top. Heavy flat pilasters frame the door and it has a heavy cornice with a broad frieze with a row of dentils. This composite structure is attractive and well-maintained.</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    <b>Endangered</b>                      <b>Interior</b>                      <b>Exterior</b> <b>excellent</b></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paul A. Brinkman</b></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <b>August 29, 1967</b></p>



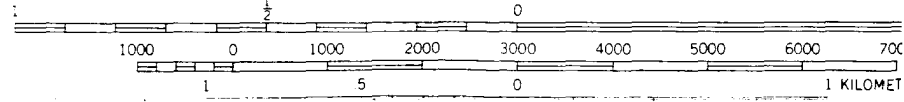
T-19  
Academy of the Arts (Old Primery School)  
~~221 Harrison Street~~  
106 South Street

541 297



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metric methods





Academy of the Arts, Saston, Talbot County T-19  
1/5

DAG '67



ART ACADEMY

T-19

THE OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

221 SOUTH HARRISON, CORNER OF SOUTH STREET


NORTH FACADE, FACING SOUTH STREET

EASTON, MD

JULY 1976

M. FRITZ

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601





45%

⊗⊗

T-19

T-19

Academy of the Arts  
(Old Primary School)  
S. Harrison Street, Easton  
North Facade

JOB #	55367
PUB	JOH
AUTHOR	Webb
FIG	T-19
FOCUS	45%
DENSITY	1.8 X 1.70